



EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES

SKOPJE - MACEDONIA

## Ask the Consul

**Q.)** *Does participation in the Diversity Visa lottery amount to the automatic refusal of a NIV in the future? Can I be refused because of my participation in the lottery? Does it imply an immigration intention?*

**A.)** Participation in the Diversity Visa lottery does not amount to an automatic refusal of a non-immigrant visa in the future. We understand that people apply for the Diversity Lottery for a variety of reasons and that their circumstances can change over time.

All non-immigrant visa cases are adjudicated in accordance with the Immigration and Nationality Act. Section 214(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act requires consular officers to presume that a non-immigrant visa applicant is an intending immigrant unless he/she can overcome that assumption by showing strong enough social and economic ties that will compel him/her to return. A refusal under 214(b), the most common type of refusal, is never “automatic.” We interview applicants on a case-by-case basis, and take into account an applicant’s overall circumstances. Participation in the Diversity Visa lottery would be only one of a number of factors that an interviewing officer may look at; it would indicate that an applicant at some point in his/her life was considering moving to the U.S.

The Diversity Visa lottery is a legitimate opportunity for people who are interested in immigrating to America to immigrate legally. More information about the Diversity Lottery can be found at: [http://travel.state.gov/visa/immigrants/types/types\\_1318.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/immigrants/types/types_1318.html) and at <http://skopje.usembassy.gov/dvlottery.html>.

This is the official source of information for the Diversity Visa lottery. Please steer clear of other sites purporting to offer information about the Diversity Visa lottery as in the past a number of fraudulent sites have been discovered.